

1 In the Claims:

1 1. (canceled)

1 2. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim ~~1~~ 4,
2 wherein said collar is slender; and
3 wherein said collar is elongated.

1 3. (canceled)

1 4. (currently amended) ~~The tether as defined in claim 3~~
2 A retractable tether for a pet, comprising:
3 a) a collar;
4 b) a leash; and
5 c) a pair of retractors;
6 wherein said leash is retractably connected to said
7 collar by said pair of retractors, wherein said collar
8 has a pair of ends;
9 wherein said collar has a ring; and
10 wherein said ring of said collar is attached to a first
11 end of said collar by said first end of said collar
12 passing therethrough, doubling back onto itself, and
13 being affixed to itself, wherein a second end of said
14 collar passes freely through said ring of said collar,
15 doubles back onto itself, and is adjustably and
16 replaceably affixed to itself by hook and loop fasteners;
17 and
18 wherein said hook and loop fasteners of said collar are
19 disposed on facing surfaces of said second end of said
20 collar.

- 1 5. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim ~~1~~ 4,
2 wherein said leash is slender;
3 wherein said leash is elongated.
- 1 6. (canceled)
- 1 7. (currently amended) ~~The tether as defined in claim 1~~
2 A retractable tether for a pet, comprising:
3 a) a collar;
4 b) a leash; and
5 c) a pair of retractors;
6 wherein said leash is retractably connected to said
7 collar by said pair of retractors, wherein said pair of
8 retractors are diametrically opposed to each other; and
9 wherein said pair of retractors are attached to said
10 collar.
- 1 8. (currently amended) ~~The tether as defined in claim 6~~ A
2 retractable tether for a pet, comprising:
3 a) a collar;
4 b) a leash; and
5 c) a pair of retractors;
6 wherein said leash is retractably connected to said
7 collar by said pair of retractors, wherein said leash has
8 a pair of ends; and
9 wherein said pair of ends of said leash are operatively
10 connected to said pair of retractors, respectively,
11 wherein each retractor comprises a housing;
12 wherein each retractor comprises a retracting mechanism;

13 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is
14 operatively connected within said housing of an
15 associated retractor; and
16 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is
17 operatively connected to an associated end of said leash.

1 9. (original) The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said
2 housing of each retractor is generally cylindrically-
3 shaped; and
4 wherein said housing of each retractor extends generally
5 normally to said collar.

6 10. (original) The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said
7 housing of each retractor has a slit;
8 wherein said slit in said housing of each retractor
9 extends axially therealong; and
10 wherein said leash extends through said slit in said
11 housing of each retractor.

1 11. (original) The tether as defined in claim 10, wherein
2 said retracting mechanism of each retractor comprises an
3 axle; and
4 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor
5 comprises a recoilable spring.

1 12. (previously presented) The tether as defined in claim
2 11, wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of
3 each retractor extends axially within said housing of
4 said retracting mechanism of said associated retractor;

5 wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of each
6 retractor extends rotatably within said housing of said
7 retracting mechanism of said associated retractor; and
8 wherein an end of said leash extends through said slit
9 in said housing of said associated retractor and is
10 attached to said axle of said retracting mechanism of
11 said associated retractor.

1 13. (previously presented) The tether as defined in claim
2 11, wherein said recoilable spring of said retracting
3 mechanism of each retractor operatively connects said
4 axle of said retracting mechanism of said associated
5 retractor to said housing of said associated retractor.

6 14. (previously presented) The tether as defined in claim
7 11, wherein said recoilable spring of said retracting
8 mechanism of each retractor allows said leash to freely
9 recoil and be automatically wrapped around said axle of
10 said retracting mechanism of said associated retractor
11 when tension is removed from said leash.

1 15. (original) The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein
2 each retractor comprises a ratchet mechanism.

1 16. (previously presented) The tether as defined in claim
2 15, wherein said ratchet mechanism of each retractor
3 operatively connects said axle of said retracting
4 mechanism of said associated retractor to said housing
5 of said associated retractor.

1 17. (original) The tether as defined in claim 15, wherein
2 said ratchet mechanism of each retractor does not allow
3 said leash to freely recoil and be automatically wrapped
4 around said axle of said retracting mechanism of an
5 associated retractor when tension is removed from said
6 leash, but rather requires an initial tug on said leash
7 and maintaining tension thereon to release said ratchet
8 mechanism of said associated retractor to cause said
9 leash to wrap around said axle of said retracting
10 mechanism of said associated retractor.